

Patent Application 09/715,161  
Docket No. P14123US

### REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-21, 23-26, and 28 are currently pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 7, 14, and 24 are independent claims.

#### **Claim rejections – 35 USC §102**

In paragraph 3 of his report, the Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-19, 23, 24, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art (APA). Please note that claims 1, 7, 14, and 24 have been amended for better pointing out the scope of the invention. Claims 5, 12, 22, and 27 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants

In paragraph 6 of his report the Examiner objected to claims 5, 12, 22, and 27 for being dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Therefore, the limitations of claims 5, 12, 22, and 27 have been added respectively to claims 1, 7, 14, and 24. For these reasons, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 24 are not anticipated and are thus patentable. Furthermore, claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 13, 15-19, 23, and 28, which depend directly or ultimately from claims 1, 7, 14, and 24 while adding further limitations thereto, are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support to independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 24. Consequently, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

#### **Claim rejections – 35 USC §103**

In paragraph 5 of his report the Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 10-11, 20-21, and 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art (APA).

Patent Application 09/715,161  
Docket No. P14123US

Briefly, claims 3-4, 10-11, 20-21, and 25-26, which depend directly or ultimately from claims 1, 7, 14, and 24 while adding further limitations thereto, are believed patentable for the same reasons provided in support to independent claims 1, 7, 14, and 24. Consequently, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the abovementioned remarks, Applicants respectfully request favourable action for all pending claims.

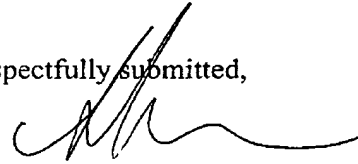
CONCLUSION

Claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-21, 23-26, and 28 are thus in condition for favorable action. If the Examiner would find that the further prosecution of the application would be facilitated by a telephone interview, the Examiner is hereby invited to call the undersigned at (514) 345-7900 ext. 2596.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

June 28, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Alex Nicolaescu  
Reg. No. 47,253